

Minutes of the Health and Human Services Board

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Members Present: Dennis Farrell (Chair), Richard Wutt, Vera Stroud, JoAnn Weidmann, Duane Paulson, Dr. John Guy, Barbara Roncke, Duane Stamsta. **Absent:** Mike O'Brien

Others Present: Peter Schuler, Don Maurer, Russ Kutz, Mike DeMares, Jack Bodien, Antwayne Robertson

Chair, Dennis Farrell called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Forms for the Box Lunch were distributed for the May 19, 2005 meeting with County Executive Dan Finley. Members will complete the form and return to Kathy Leach. The charge for the lunch is \$6.25 per person.

Review Public Hearing Input and Written Input to Department

A packet of information put together as a result of the Public Hearing and correspondence received was distributed to members. Antwayne Robertson reviewed the packet, which included a Summary of Comment Areas (either expressed at the Public Hearing or via written communication), a Summary of the Hearing, and copies of letters sent by the public. The speakers and letters touched on subjects such as emergency respite child care, funding for the Women's Center's crisis respite child care, victims of domestic violence, poverty, and child welfare concerns. The Women's Center provides shelter, counseling and crisis intervention for children and their families. Also expressed were concerns about continued funding for developmental disability services and COP services. A number of letters were received from consumers of Parents Place about their positive experience in the program and the need for continued funding. The members took the next several minutes to review the materials in the packet. Following their review of the packet, there was discussion regarding the residential waiting list for developmentally disabled adults, state mandated services for which the state is not providing proper funding, the COP program and Parents Place. It was clarified that Parents Place cannot be funded by any Birth to Three dollars as they are strictly allocated for developmentally disabled children.

Dennis Farrell thanked everyone for attending the Joint Advisory Committee meeting and stated that all the needs were real and the meeting was very successful.

Prioritize and Create Communication to the County Executive

Members went over the list of Advisory Committee Needs. There was discussion regarding the need recommended by the Child and Family Advisory Committee which is "Support the Development and Creation of a Child Protection Center in Waukesha County". No funding is being requested for 2006 as grant funding is being sought. Schuler stated that Mike DeMares and Dr. Gordon Owley of the Clinical Division have been working on a grant which involved participating with Milwaukee County regarding mental health crisis services. The grant is

\$200,000 and is to be used to build capacity to reduce the number of people going into institutional treatment. We presently use Milwaukee County CATC and Rogers Hospital as an in-patient treatment facility for children and adolescents. However, the state and federal government have cut the funding almost in half over the last 3-4 years. Our goal is to build service capacity to help reduce our emergency detentions for children and adults. This is a 5-year grant and as of July 1st it is into its second year so we would have 4 ½ years. Milwaukee receives \$100,000 per year and they are to work with our department to look at system changes so that less individuals have to be emergency detained (ED). Milwaukee County is looking at keeping their developmentally disabled clientele out of institutions by devising other capacities. In some ways we are not as customer and family friendly as far as children and emergency detentions are concerned. We have approximately 200 children per year going to CATC, Rogers Hospital and state institutes. Milwaukee County has crisis intervention specialists and with the help of law enforcement they are able to look at alternatives. Milwaukee County has a central receiving center for all ED's – both adult and children. They can take a child there and divert them on the spot. The reason the state is looking into this is because they would like to lower the cost of Title 19 and they have decided to allocate some dollars for front door diversion. This money would also be used to develop a four bed home for crisis care – respite to avoid institutional placement – this will enable us to have a different approach to children and Milwaukee County with their developmentally disabled population. DeMares has about \$50,000 for next year to work on developing a different system for children and develop some type of non-hospital respite care. There is also a small piece for police training. The City of Milwaukee Police will have a CIT team and officers will have a 40-hour training in mental health in order to handle a crisis in the community and is dispatched as a helper to someone on the scene. This has been very successful in Memphis, Tennessee.

Several items on the Needs List are actually looking for our endorsement rather than monies such as the DDAC's need of "Human Services Board to collaborate with the DDAC to identify state officials and government representatives who would be influential in appropriating long overdue state funds to match the growing costs of providing services to the disabled population". It was decided that several items would be removed from the prioritization list but would be listed as an endorsement.

Prioritize List of Recommendations

The board members proceeded to rank their list of recommendations and then they were turned over to Jack Bodien for tallying and averaging the list in order to prioritize the needs. Members decided to only retain the top 5 prioritized needs, bullet point the remainder and separate the endorsements. The "revised" list was handed out to all members.

Peter Schuler spoke briefly about #11 on the list of recommendations which is to "provide for technical upgrade for the Spring City Clubhouse's job placement services". There are a number of non-profit agencies who are working with antiquated computers and copiers. Although our copiers are leased, there are a number of computers and printers that leave here and are destroyed. The question has been raised several times as to why we cannot set our old equipment for \$1.00 to these agencies. It was mentioned that San Diego County donates their used computers to foster parents. Paulson stated that he has an Information Systems meeting tomorrow and will raise this topic. Schuler stated that there may be some effort on the county's

part for the removal of information from the computers, but Paulson said he believes this is already being done. Roncke suggested that there may be some businesses that might be willing to turn over their old computers to some of these agencies.

Create Communication to County Executive

The memo to Finley will be executed in the next couple of days and sent to him along with the list of prioritized needs prior to the May 19, 2005 meeting.

Review Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Copies of the “draft” schedules for the July 20 and 21 meeting to present the Health and Human Services budget to the Board were distributed. It was decided to keep July 22 as a back-up date in the event everything is not covered on the two previous days.

MOTION: A motion was made by Wutt seconded by Roncke to adjourn the meeting. All voted and the motion carried.

Minutes recorded by Kathy Leach

Approved on _____
Date